

■ Dialogue across Diverse Musical Cultures Sparks New Perspectives: NCL and the Ethnomusicological Society of the Republic of China Co-host Scholarly Conference

The “2025 Conference of the Ethnomusicological Society of the Republic of China,” co-hosted by the Ethnomusicological Society of the Republic of China and NCL, was held on November 15, 2025, at NCL’s Multifunctional Performance Hall. The conference brought together music scholars and researchers from Taiwan and abroad for in-depth scholarly exchange on topics including the development of modern music in Taiwan, field research on ethnic and community songs, practices of recording culture, and urban music anthropology. Lively and engaging academic interaction persisted throughout the event.

The opening ceremony was presided over by President Su-Feng Yu. President Yu noted that this conference is the Society’s annual flagship event and expressed gratitude to NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang and Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng for their presence and support. With a full program, the conference featured a keynote address by Dr. Chin Chao, the Society’s first Secretary-General, followed by multiple panel paper presentations. It was hoped that all participants would leave with rich and rewarding outcomes.

While presiding over the keynote session, Director-General Wang expressed appreciation to Dr. Chao for her generous donation in 2024 of more than 2,700 audiovisual materials and books, which significantly enriched NCL’s collections with valuable musical and cultural assets. Director-General Wang noted that co-hosting the conference with the Society carries particular significance in sustaining cultural continuity and promoting scholarly research.

The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Chin Chao and titled “A Page in the History of Broadcast Music that Advanced the Development of Modern Music in Taiwan—With Reflections on the Audiovisual Archival Materials from My Career in Music Broadcasting Donated to NCL.” In her talk, she reviewed more than six decades of dedication to music broadcasting and music education, and highlighted the most valuable items in the audiovisual materials donated to NCL. The lecture not only bore witness to the development of Taiwan’s broadcast music history but also resonated with NCL’s mission of cultural preservation and collection stewardship, ensuring that these valuable materials will continue to generate value

and be passed on to future generations.

After the keynote lecture, the session continued under the moderation of Acting Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng, with Mr. Tzu-Wei Lan and Dr. Chao participating in a panel discussion. Mr. Lan remarked that “listening leads to being moved, and being moved leads to transmission,” expressing the hope that the donated materials would generate even greater impact through digitization and broader outreach and application. Acting Director-General Weng noted that NCL will continue to seek resources to advance document digitization and cross-unit collaboration, further deepening the active use and application of cultural assets.



Deputy Director-General Weng in panel discussion with Mr. Lan and Dr. Chao

With its diverse topics and rich program, the conference featured presentations by twelve participants, spanning subjects from historical music and fieldwork on indigenous music to recording culture and urban music studies. The breadth of discussions fully demonstrated the strong cross-cultural and cross-generational scholarly foundations of Taiwan’s music research community. The conference came to a successful end, with participating scholars unanimously affirming its role as an important platform for deepening exchange in ethnomusicological research, and as a testament to the ongoing efforts of NCL and the academic community to jointly safeguard and advance musical culture.



A group photo of attendees

■ **Ang Lee’s “Age of Innocence” — Launch Event for the New Classic Edition of *Awakening from a Ten-Year Film Dream: A Biography of Ang Lee***

The launch event for the new classic edition of *Awakening from a Ten-Year Film Dream: A Biography of Ang Lee*, co-organized by the National Central Library and China Times Publishing, was held on December 7, 2025. The venue was filled to capacity, with particularly strong participation from younger readers. The event demonstrated a high level of cross-generational engagement with cinematic art, reading culture, and creative spirit, and infused contemporary humanities dialogue with sincere and warm energy.



A conversation between Ang Lee and moderator Shih-ta Chang

In 2002, the late Director-General Ling-pei Chang documented Director Ang Lee’s early creative journey with remarkable sensitivity in *Awakening from a Ten-Year Film Dream*. Since its publication, the book has deeply moved readers and remains, to this day, the only biography personally endorsed by Director Lee. Twenty-three years later, the new classic edition reunites with readers, taking us back to what Director Lee has described as his “age of innocence”—a beginning that was both arduous and radiant, and an adventure that ultimately led him onto the world stage.

A special invitation was extended to the internationally renowned director Ang Lee to visit NCL and share with readers his recollections of working with Ms. Chang during the writing of the book. He also reflected on how he forged a distinctive cinematic language through prolonged periods of struggle and waiting, how he sought his own position between Eastern and Western cultures, and the profound insights he has gained along the way regarding creativity, life, and his lifelong dream of cinema.

In her opening remarks, Director-General Han-Ching Wang stated that NCL has long actively collaborated with publishing houses to promote new book launches and themed reading programs, thereby expanding the possibilities of reading promotion. Through the publication of the new classic edition of *Awakening from a Ten-Year Film Dream*, the event not only invites readers to revisit how a director remained steadfast on his creative path, but also allows an important work to reconnect with its audience. It further symbolizes the partnership between publishers and libraries in bringing high-quality content into the lives of more readers. She also expressed her appreciation to China Times Publishing for its dedication in making it possible for this classic work to be available to readers again. Looking ahead, Director-General Wang noted that the National Central Library will continue to work closely with the publishing community to explore more diverse forms of collaboration. Whether through new book events, special exhibitions, reading education, or cross-disciplinary knowledge services, NCL hopes to jointly broaden the impact of reading culture and bring greater inspiration and possibilities to society.



Director Ang Lee poses for a photograph with Cheng-min Chao, Chairman of China Times Publishing Co. (left), and NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang (right)